

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY SANA

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AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

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SUBJECT: WEEKLY SAUDI EDITORIAL SUMMARY (JULY 14 - 20)

SUMMARY: MAJOR U.S.-RELATED SAUDI EDITORIAL EMPHASES DURING WEEK, JULY 14-20 WERE: LEBANESE DEVELOPMENTS AND JIDDA TRIPARTITE MEETING BETWEEN SADAT, NUMEIRI AND KING KHALID; AFTERMATH OF AIR FRANCE HIJACKING AND ISRAELI RAID ON ENTEBBE AIRPORT; PRINCE ABDULLAH'S CONTINUING U.S. TOUR; THE WHITE PROBLEM IN SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA. STRAIGHT-NEWS ARTICLES AND HEADLINES FOCUSED ON TRIPARTITE MEETING, ABDULLAH'S U.S. VISIT, VIKING/MARS MSSION AND LEBANON. END SUMMARY.

1. LEBANON

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JULY 17 AL-NADWA DAILY CRITICIZED ARAFAT'S

"INTRANSIGENCE" IN REFUSING TO GO TO DAMASCUS TO WORK OUT FORMULA FOR WITHDRAWAL OF SYRIAN FORCES FROM LEBANON, NOTING THAT SUCH "INTRANSIGENCE" WILL LEAD TO "FOREIGN INTERVENTION DIRECTED AGAINST THE PALESTINIANS".

AR-RIYADH DAILY JULY 19, IN ISSUE CONTAINING STRAIGHT NEWS STORIES WITH HEADLINES CRITICAL OF U.S., ALSO RAN CARTOON WITH A MAN CARRYING A GUN SAYING TO CAMILLE CHAMOUN, SEATED BEHIND A DESK WITH HIS FIST FULL OF U.S. DOLLARS, "WE ARE BOTH MERCENARIES AND RECEIVE THE SAME KIND OF MONEY."

ALTHOUGH THERE WAS LITTLE EDITORIAL COMMENT ON PROPOSED U.S.-LED EVACUATION FROM BEIRUT, ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARAB NEWS JULY 18 SAID "WHATEVER THE REASONS (BEHIND THE EVACUATION)... BEIRUT, IT IS SADLY TRUE, IS NOT A PLACE FIT FOR HUMAN HABITATION....THE FEAR FOR LEBANON IS NOT THAT IT MAY CAUSE ANOTHER ARAB-ISRAELI WAR BUT THAT IT WILL BE A VIETNAMESE-STYLE CONTINUOUS WARFARE..... UNLESS AND UNTIL OUR OWN HOUSE IS PUT IN ORDER, THERE WILL BE LITTLE HELP WE CAN OFFER, AS AN ARAB NATION, TO THE LEBANESE-PALESTINIAN-SYRIAN WAR."

2. JIDDA TRIPARTITE MEETING

WHILE THE MECHANICS OF CONFERENCE RECEIVED WIDE PUBLICITY, CONTENTS OF MEETINGS WERE NOT REVEALED AND THERE WAS LITTLE EDITORIAL COMMENT EXCEPT IN JULY 20 AL-MADINA DAILY WHICH HAD A LENGTHY COMMENT BY MOHAMMED HAFIZ, PROMINENT LOCAL WRITER, WHO SAID THAT THE MEETING WAS NOT A NEW ALIGNMENT OF FORCES OR A "GATHERING DIRECTED AGAINST ANYONE" BUT WAS "AIMED AT STRENGTHENING ARAB SOLIDARITY". HE HOPED THE MEETING WOULD "PROMPT PARTIES STRUGGLING IN LEBANON TO STOP THE KILLING AND ALSO PRESERVE THE LIFE OF THE PLO". ENGLISH-LANGUAGE ARAB NEWS OPINED THAT THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE "MUST BE A BLOW TO LIBYA WHICH ONLY TWO DAYS AGO CALLED THE JIDDA SUMMIT, A GATHERING OF REACTIONARY FORCES."

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3. DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER PRINCE ABDULLAH'S U.S. VISIT

ABDULLAH'S VISIT CONTINUED TO RECEIVE PROMINENT COVERAGE THROUGHOUT WEEK LEADING AL-YAMAMAH WEEKLY JULY 16 TO COMMENT, " ALTHOUGH U.S. PRESS VERY BUSY WITH ELECTION NEWS, IT COULD NOT DOWNPLAY NEWS OF PRINCE'S VISIT BECAUSE IT COMES AT TIME WHEN AMERICAN ADMIN-

ISTRATION IS RE-EVALUATING ITS PLANS FOR RESOLVING THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE AND IT IS KNOWN THAT THE PRINCE ENJOYS EXPERTISE AND INFLUENCE IN THIS AREA....THE SUCCESS OF THE PRINCE'S VISIT IS SURELY DUE TO THE STRONG RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES" AND IT IS HOPED THAT THE VISIT "WILL EFFECT EVENTUALLY AMERICAN ATTITUDES TOWARD ARAB PROBLEMS".

4. AFTERMATH AIR FRANCE HIJACKING AND ISRAELI RESCUE

JULY 16 AL-YAMAMAH WEEKLY SAID THAT ARABS STILL "SUPPORT EVERY ATTEMPT TO INSURE RELEASE OF PALESTINIAN PRISONERS IN ISRAEL, PROVIDING THE ATTEMPT DOES NOT INVOLVE INNOCENT PEOPLE". EDITORIAL CRITICIZED HI-JACKERS AS BEING "FOOLISH AND INSINCERE", NOTING A FAR BETTER METHOD FOR ACHIEVING THEIR PUBLICITY AND POLICY AIMS WOULD HAVE BEEN TO "FOLLOW THE TRAVELS OF HIGH RANKING ISRAELI OFFICERS OUTSIDE ISRAEL AND KILL THEM", RATHER THAN HIJACKING A PLANE CONTAINING INNOCENT PASSENGERS.

5. WHITE PROBLEM IN SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA

JULY 19 DAILY COLUMN OF MOHAMMED SALAH ID-DEEN IN AL-MADINA, NOTING A "U.S. RECOMMENDATION" THAT "WHITES NOT DESIRING TO REMAIN IN COUNTRIES RULED BY BLACK MAJORITY SHOULD BE RETURNED TO EUROPE, THEIR ORIGINAL HOMELAND", SAID SUCH A SOLUTION WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL TO THE WHITES. IF RATHER, THE AFRICAN WHITES HAD SENT SOME OF THEIR PEOPLE TO THE U.S., AND "IN TIME HAD FORMED A PRESSURE GROUP THAT COULD TWIST THE NECK OF THE U.S. CONGRESS", THEY WOULD "NOT HAVE EVER HEARD SUCH A RECOMMENDATION FROM THE U.S." HE COMPARED THIS SITUATION UNCLASSIFIED

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TO PALESTINE AND ISRAEL, CLAIMING NO U.S. REP. WOULD "DARE ISSUE SUCH A RECOMMENDATION" REGARDING THE ISRAELIS "BECAUSE ISRAEL, BACKED BY ZIONIST PRESSURE GROUPS INSIDE THE U.S. WOULD SHUT THE MOUTH OF ANY ENVOY WHO DARED ASKED THE ISRAELIS TO REUTNR FROM WHENCE THEY CAME AND, FOR THE SAKE OF PEACE AND JUSTICE, LEAVE PALESTINE TO THE PALESTINIANS". JONES

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